

# Elder Abuse Prevention & Information

Elder abuse is a growing epidemic; elder abuse awareness is key in preventing the abuse of older citizens.

According to recent statistics by the [Executive Office of Elder Affairs](#), in fiscal year 2015, 24,978 elder abuse reports were received and there were 7,117 newly confirmed allegations of elder abuse. These numbers represent an increase of 37% of the total number of elder abuse reports and a 57% increase in confirmed allegations compared to FY 2011. Protective Services cases are divided into two categories; investigation and ongoing services. Investigations are conducted to determine if elder abuse has occurred. In FY 2015 the average number of investigations completed per month was 1,051. Once elder abuse is determined to have occurred, the case moves into ongoing services, where elders are provided different types of services or supports to end the abuse. In FY 2015 the average number of case in ongoing services per month was 1,028, meaning for FY 2015 the average total number of cases per month in Protective Services was 2,079.

If you suspect elder abuse or would like to report a case of elder abuse, you may call the statewide **Elder Abuse Hotline (1-800-922-2275)**, which operates on a 7/days per week, 24 hours/day basis. Typically, elder abuse reports are made to agencies during normal business hours and to the Hotline during after-hours periods, on weekends and holidays.

There are several types of elder abuse which jeopardize a person's physical and mental health including:

- **Physical:** Inflicting physical pain or injury
- **Emotional:** Verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, intimidation, etc.
- **Confinement:** Restraining or isolating the adult, other than for medical reasons
- **Passive Neglect:** Family/caregiver's failure to provide life's necessities including (but not limited to) food, clothing, shelter, medical care, etc.
- **Willful Deprivation:** Denying medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device, or other physical assistance, and exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm
- **Financial exploitation:** The misuse or withholding of an older adult's financial resources

For more information about elder abuse and how to identify a potential victim of elder abuse, see the following links:

[Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov)

[SeniorCare, Inc.](#) - SeniorCare serves the North Shore area and has hours from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**SeniorCare Contact Info:**

Hours: Mon-Fri from 9.am. - 5:00 p.m.:

Phone: 978-281-1750 or 866-927-1050 :

**Evenings, Nights, Weekends, Holidays:**

**Elder Abuse Hotline - 1-800-922-2275**

**Outside SeniorCare's Service Area:**

Phone: 800-AGE-INFO

Phone: 800-243-4636

**Deaf Services:**

Deaf Survivors Center **1-844-ODSC-SAFE**

Phone: **844-637-2723**

**If the Situation is an Emergency:**

**Dial 9-1-1 immediately**

Rockport Police Department's Roger Lesch is the [Special Officer for Elder Affairs for the Town of Rockport](#). For questions or information, you may contact Office Lesch at 978-546-1212, ext. 13.